

Message Text

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11

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /201 W
----- 052397

P R 140630 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1622

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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JOINT EMBASSY/ USAID MESSAGE

EO 11653: N/ A DECLAS 12/31/73

TAGS: EAGR/ VS

SUBJ: PL-480 RICE IMPORTS

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 4440 B. STATE 063454 C. SAIGON 6495
D. SAIGON 5286

1. REF A REQUESTS AID/ W REALLOCATE TO GKR PART OR ALL OF 25,000 MT
PL-480 RICE NOW ALLOCATED TO GVN ON BASIS OF REF B. BASED ON CON-
SIDERATIONS OUTLINED REF B AND REF C AND ON CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
DATA, WE THINK SUCH REALLOCATION WOULD BE ILL- ADVISED.

2. IF ALL CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN RICE FROM BATTAMBANG PROVINCE
AND FROM THAI AND JAPANESE SOURCES FAIL, THE SHORTAGE IN PHNOM
PENH WOULD OCCU DURING JULY. LOW STOCK POINT HERE IN VIETNAM NOT
EXPECTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, AND IF THERE WERE SOME
INDICATION THAT CARRYOVER STOCK OR NEW RICE FROM THE US AUGUST
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HARVEST COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO VIETNAM DURING SEPTEMBER, THEN THE GVN COULD LIKELY ASSIST THE GKR DURING JULY.

3. A SMALL FURTHER POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT AS A RESULT OF CURRENT GVN EFFORTS TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION AND INCREASE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, GVN STOCK SITUATION BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER MAY IMPROVE TO A POINT WHERE SHIFT OF SOME STOCKS FROM GVN TO GKR MIGHT BECOME FEASIBLE. IF THIS PROVES TO BE A REALITY, GVN ASSISTANCE TO GKR WOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY TO ARRANGE. GVN CAPABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP GKR HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATED BOTH IN THE PAST AND AT PRESENT, E. G. IN THE SVAY RIENG AIRDROPS, CROSS- BORDER REFUGEE ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS AND IN MEKONG CONVOY SUPPORT.

4. TO SUM UP, GVN HAS CLEAR NEED FOR 25,000 MT AS OUTLINED IN REF B AND REF C AND CAUTIONS AGAINST REALLOCATION OF ANY PART OF IT AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, AS IN THE PAST, GVN IS READY TO ASSIST GKR AS FAR AS IT OWN SITUATION PERMITS AND IF ALL GKR CURRENT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE RICE FAIL. DECON 12/31/73.
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOKYO
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